SIREN SONG

THE ALLURE OF AI

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This book is dedicated to John McCarthy, the father of AI.

John, I'm afraid you've doomed us all.

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"Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks."

Stephen Hawking

PREFACE

This is a collection of essays penned by Miami University students navigating the landscape of AI's inception. Comprising a diverse array of works, from research papers to personal reflections and creative fiction, each piece possesses its own distinctive purpose and compelling narrative.

As we delved into editing this collection, a prevalent somber tone emerged across many essays, revealing a subtle undercurrent of fear harbored by the authors. It is as though they grapple with an unease, viewing the advent of AI as akin to the mesmerizing song of a siren. The allure of this technological frontier is undeniable, yet there lingers a palpable apprehension that it may lead to our very downfall.

In these pages, the authors confront the dichotomy of AI's potential—its promise and peril. Through their words, readers are invited to contemplate the profound impact of artificial intelligence on our lives, society, and collective future. This anthology serves as both a testament to the multifaceted nature of this technological revolution and a poignant exploration of the complex emotions it evokes in those witnessing its infancy.

COME
CLOSER

With voices deep and hollow,
"To the shore
Follow! Oh, follow!
To be at rest forevermore!
Forevermore!"

—James Russell Lowell, *The Sirens*, 1840

DIGITAL DREAM

BRAELYN BINKOWSKI

Artificial Intelligence. AI.
The 21st century's heralded savior.
A panacea for humanity's ocean of sorrows.

War.
Cancer.
Hunger.
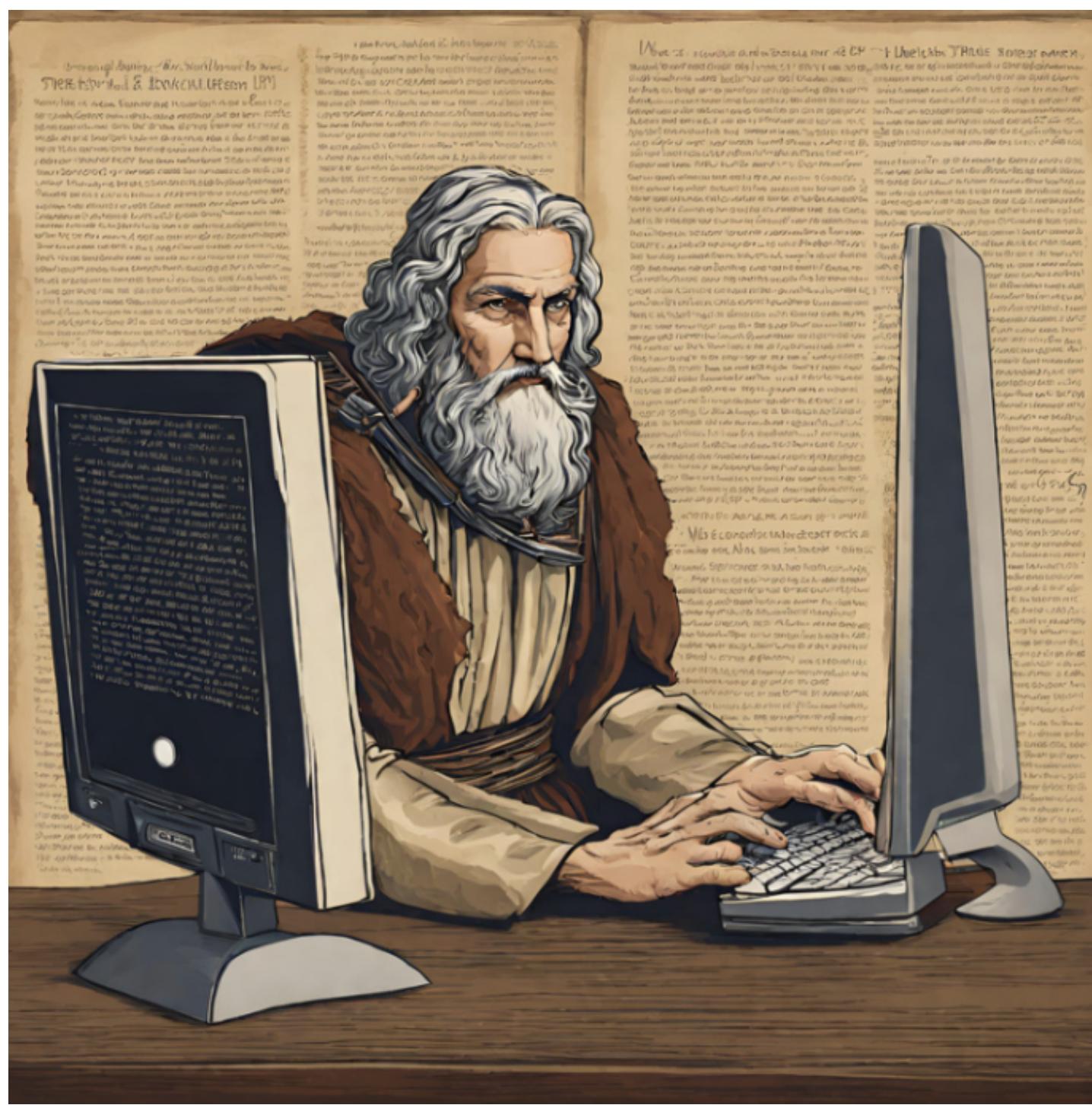
Suffering finds reprieve
With mere clicks of a keyboard
And a tap on the enter key.

Its convenience, unmatched.
Its adaptability, a tale untold.
Its potential, an unexplored frontier.

The future begins here.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF AI USAGE

BRAELYN BINKOWSKI

A New Age

In every academic year, "Syllabus Week" plays out in an almost scripted fashion. The familiar expectations are endlessly reiterated: attend class, maintain academic integrity, and avoid plagiarism. As professors reemphasize these age-old rules, the scene unfolds predictably, with coffee-fueled students nodding off into open laptops. The repetition of the same instructions year after year creates an all-too-familiar narrative.

Yet, the fall semester of 2023 shattered this monotonous cycle. Within each syllabus I received, a striking addition stood out—a prominently bolded section addressing plagiarism concerning the use of artificial intelligence (AI). This alteration was a response to the growing popularity of accessible AI programs, such as ChatGPT.

The sudden and widespread integration of accessible AI into the academic sphere has sparked a blend of fear and excitement. While the potential advantages of AI in education are remarkable, they are accompanied by a myriad of ethical concerns that cannot be ignored.

The Greatest Dream and Worst Nightmare

For some, the introduction of this novel technology was exhilarating; for others, it was a nightmare. Professors expressed notable concerns regarding AI integration into academia, chiefly involving transparency. The growing sophistication of AI raises worries about its potential to evade detection by instructors, potentially jeopardizing the authenticity of students' work. Instructors value their students' capacity to produce authentic and innovative ideas and content. This technology provides significant potential for overreliance on AI-generated

responses.

On the flip side, students were elated by the possibilities that AI presented. Tedious hour-long assignments could now be a brisk 30-minute session. Some students, perhaps a bit too enthusiastic, discovered ways to expedite the process by inputting assignment prompts into ChatGPT, copying and pasting the responses into a document, and swiftly moving on. This newfound efficiency afforded students more time for socializing and self-care, a concept previously foreign to many.

As the use of AI gained momentum in early 2023, a crucial realization emerged: we must strike a delicate balance between using AI as a supplementary tool and allowing it to become a complete replacement for traditional academic efforts. Precisely defining and navigating this line poses a significant challenge. To define this line in the sand, I have developed the Ten Commandments of AI usage.

1: Thou shalt not use AI to complete projects in their entirety.
In a world where AI can seem all-powerful, remember that humans still have a unique touch. Embrace your creativity and problem-solving skills as you work with AI, and let it be a tool, not the entire toolbox.

2: Thou shalt use AI as an aid, never as a replacement.
AI is your trusty sidekick, not the superhero. Let it assist you, but don't let it steal your spotlight. Your ideas and insights are the stars of the show.

3: Thou shalt be transparent with their use of AI technology.
Honesty is the best policy, even in the digital age. Be open about when and how you employ AI in your work.

4: Thou shalt critically evaluate and refine AI-generated results, adding personal insights and creativity.
AI may help lay the foundation, but your personal touch turns it into a masterpiece. Incorporate your creativity into AI's output to make it truly yours.

5: Thou shalt prioritize learning and understanding over expediency, using AI to enhance comprehension.
Knowledge is power, and AI can be your ally in understanding complex topics. While the allure of using AI as a shortcut may be tempting, always remember that haste in learning is often an adversary of true understanding.

6: Thou shalt maintain a healthy skepticism, not accepting AI-generated information as absolute truth without verification.
AI may be smart, but it's not infallible. Always cross-check and verify its information.

7: Thou shalt not allow AI to perpetuate biases, ensuring its application aligns with principles of fairness and inclusivity.
AI can amplify the biases it learns. Be a responsible gatekeeper, ensuring its use aligns with the principles of fairness and inclusivity. Let AI be a force for good, not division.

8: Thou shalt use AI in the spirit of innovation and progress, always aiming to enhance the human experience rather than diminish it.
AI should be a beacon of progress, not a harbinger of doom. Innovate, improve, and use AI to elevate the human experience. After all, we're the ones in charge.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF AI USAGE

9: Thou shalt advocate for responsible and ethical AI usage, promoting academic integrity and genuine intellectual growth.
Spread the word on responsible AI use. Always be a champion for academic integrity and genuine intellectual growth.

10: Thou shall adhere to their instructor's wishes regarding AI usage.
When it comes to AI, the instructor's word is law. Always respect their guidelines and requirements, and you'll be a model student in AI ethics.

Final Thoughts
In the age of AI, we find ourselves perched on a delicate precipice, balancing the incredible potential it offers in academia with the cautionary tales of over-reliance and misuse. The Ten Commandments of AI Usage serve as a roadmap for this new journey.

As we tread this fine line, we must acknowledge the immense benefits AI brings to the table. It can assist in both learning and idea generation, providing insights that we might have otherwise missed. It's the digital companion we've always dreamt of.

But, as with any powerful tool, the caveat is clear: over-reliance on AI can lead to the erosion of our creativity and critical thinking skills. The danger lies in blindly accepting AI-generated results as gospel and letting convenience triumph over depth and detail.

In the end, we can dance with AI, but we should never forget who leads the waltz. It's us, the students, the scholars, the seekers of knowledge, who must remain at the helm. AI is not the captain; it's the navigator, helping us chart unexplored territories of thought. Let's keep our hands firmly on the wheel and use AI as our compass, ensuring that its potential is harnessed for the greater good of academia, preserving academic integrity, and nurturing the true spirit of intellectual growth in the minds of future scholars.

RANKING & ASSESSING AI

FAITH CARVER

About a month ago I was on my way to a Cincinnati Reds game with my friends. I was sitting in the back seat with two other girls, and my friend next to me had both her phone and iPad open: the iPad opened to Canvas, and her phone opened to Snapchat. On one hand, she was communicating with the Snapchat AI. In the other, she was finishing her homework with the Snapchat AI output. Sitting next to her, I wondered if there was a more efficient AI service to do homework than Snapchat. My mind assumed that because an AI software was embedded in a social media app, its purpose would be for something more casual than academics. This raised other questions: Are different AI softwares actually different in their design? And if they are indeed different, which ones are most suitable for various purposes?

Ranking AIs

#1: The Bing Chatbot
The Bing Chatbot is considered "the best AI" by the tech website, ZDNET (Ortiz, 2023). In an article ranking AI software, ZDNET prefers the Bing Chatbot because of its access to the internet, links to backsources, and for using the most advanced software. The article goes on to explain that the Bing Chatbot fixes issues that another AI software, ChatGPT, does not fix; including having access to current events and linking back to the sources it retrieved its answer from. Bing Chatbot is also a free software, making it readily accessible to all users.

#2: ChatGPT
ChatGPT has notable writing skills, STEM knowledge, and conversational skills, however, the software is not always connected to the internet. You can connect ChatGPT to the internet via

"Browse with Bing". You can browse the internet on ChatGPT this way without having to use a third party extension. ChatGPT is particularly convenient for STEM queries, as it can solve complex math equations, write code from scratch, and even debug programming. Despite this, ChatGPT is sometimes at a usage capacity due to its immense popularity. ChatGPT offers a "Plus" program where subscribers can access advanced features, but at a premium. For $20 a month, users can have access to these additional features, unlike the Bing Chatbot, which offers all those advanced features for free.

#3: The Google Assistant

The Google Assistant is a versatile and intelligent AI service that answers any and all kinds of questions, provides academic or casual information, and assists with various tasks. For example, you can use the Google Assistant to help complete assignments, make lists, find answers to a variety of questions; essentially it is like having a personal assistant. It seamlessly integrates with Google's other offered services, making it easy to access across many devices. With its natural language and processing capabilities, Google Assistant can understand and respond to complex queries, making it a reliable and helpful AI service.

#4: Jasper

Jasper is another AI program considered the best for businesses and marketers. The software has over 50 writing templates, copyediting features, and a plagiarism checker. However, the software is expensive, and it focuses only on written text. You can prompt the Jasper AI to write what you ask it to be written, just like ChatGPT. The platform allows users to instantly produce human-like copies for blog posts, social media ads, emails, landing pages, and more. Jasper uses a GPT-3 technology to create this copy, which is best known for being a cornerstone of ChatGPT and is the penultimate update in GPT technology. Essentially, it is the second-most recent "update" in AI software and programming, making it effective, but not as effective as other rivaling AI services that use GPT-4 technology.

Differentiating the Different Types of AI

In my research, I explored the difference between an AI chatbot and an AI writer. While they are very similar, there are some subtle differences.An AI chatbot is a type of artificial intelligence-powered computer program capable of generating written content from a user's input prompt. AI chatbots can write anything from a song to an essay upon the user's request. The extent of what each chatbot can write about depends on its capabilities, including whether it is connected to a search engine. The main difference between an AI chatbot and an AI writer is the type of output they generate and their primary function. An AI writer's output is in the form of written text that mimics human-like language and structure. The AI chatbot is designed to conduct real-time conversations with users in text or voice-based interactions. The primary function of an AI chatbot is to answer questions, provide recommendations, or even perform simple texts, and its output is in the form of text-based conversations.

Despite these definitions of distinguishing between AI chatbots and AI writers, the development of ChatGPT, and other increasingly advanced AI technologies, some AI are now capable of generating text-based responses that mimic human-like language and structure like the AI writer. This blurs the lines between different kinds of AI software.

Final Thoughts

Through my research, I've learned that most, if not all, AI software were designed for a similar purpose: to be asked questions and to generate accurate answers. After researching the different AI software offered to the public, I realized that AIs can specialize or produce more efficient results for a specific purpose. But at their core, AI shares the same common intention. One day AI could develop a different determination, but only time will tell. It is also widely regarded that with its advanced technology through the use of a GPT-4 network, its access

RANKING AND ASSESSING AI

to the entirety of the internet, its ability to link back to its sources, and its $0 price, the Bing Chatbot is the best AI to use for most any purpose. To answer my question that sparked the topic of this piece, the Snapchat AI is powered by ChatGPT and is essentially identical in its makeup. The only difference is that users can edit the AI to appear as whoever they please, which invites other potential problems.

If you're trying to use AI to help you with a homework assignment, I would recommend the Bing Chatbot instead of the Snapchat AI. But, as always, keep in mind that AI may not always provide the most accurate or reliable information. It is important to fact-check the results you generate through AI. Use critical thinking when engaging with AI models. The "best" AI service can vary depending on your individual preferences and needs, so try a few options from my ranking system and see which one suits your needs best.

AI EXPLORED

ELIZABETH MARTIN

"I'm increasingly inclined to think that there should be some regulatory oversight [regarding artificial intelligence (AI)], maybe at the national and international level, just to make sure that we don't do something very foolish," explains Elon Musk. "I mean, with artificial intelligence, we're summoning the demon" (Marr, 2021). Musk's apprehension of unregulated AI provides a backdrop to a broader discussion of the field of AI. This essay examines the birth and evolution of AI alongside the escalating risks posed by its rapid growth.

Understanding AI

Marvin Lee Minskey, computer scientist and co-founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AI laboratory, broadly defines AI as "the science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men" (Dennis, 2019). Minskey's definition emphasizes the fundamental aspiration of AI: to bridge the gap between human cognition and machine functionality. Likewise, International Business Machines (IBM) defines AI in more detail:

Artificial intelligence is a field, which combines computer science and robust datasets, to enable problem-solving. It also encompasses sub-fields of machine learning and deep learning...These disciplines are comprised of AI algorithms which seek to create expert systems which make predictions or classifications based on input data. (IBM, 2023)

As IBM mentioned, there are two prominent subfields of AI: machine learning and deep learning. Simply put, machine learning systems learn from data, thus improving performance success over time. Deep learning systems comprehend complex and unstructured data, excelling in tasks involving large datasets and intricate patterns. Ultimately, AI harnesses data to make

predictions, classifications, and decisions, which can be a valuable tool across industries.

AI's Birth and Progression

In 1950, British cryptanalysis Alan Turing explored the mathematical possibility of AI in his essay "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Turing proposed the question, "Can machines think?" and suggested the potential for computers to simulate human intelligence by adjusting algorithms. Unfortunately, Turing's work stopped there—in 1950, computers could not store commands, only execute them.

Years later, Allen Newell, Cliff Shaw, and Herbert Simon verified Turing's inquiries with Logic Theorist, a computer program designed to prove mathematical theorems using heuristic search. Logic Theorist demonstrated that a computer program can replicate human-like mathematical reasoning, ultimately making Logic Theorist a pioneer in AI history ("Logic Theorist," 2021).

For the next fifteen years, AI progressed exponentially; computing advanced tenfold, resulting in faster processing speed and storage capacity. This allowed for more complex computations, a critical component of AI pattern recognition and decision-making. Computers also became increasingly affordable and accessible, thus democratizing AI research and prompting AI innovations. Machine learning progressed as researchers developed intricate algorithms, such as neural networks and decision trees, enabling AI to learn and adapt effectively.

In 1970, Marvin Minskey announced that in "three to eight years, we will have a machine with the general intelligence of an average human being" (Anyoha, 2017). However, despite AI's booming success years prior, scholars' high expectations exceeded AI's technological capabilities; computers simply could not process and store enough information. Ultimately, AI's stagnant growth led to reduced research and government funding.

Nevertheless, ten years later, AI resurged due to progress in computer science research and Moore's Law, which, according to Investopedia, "implies that computers, machines that run on computers, and computing power all become smaller, faster, and cheaper with time, as transistors on integrated circuits become more efficient" (Tardi, 2021). In short, scholars can expect the speed and capability of computers to increase as time progresses. Furthermore, pivotal researchers like Yann LeCun and Jürgen Schmidhuber developed advanced algorithms such as deep learning, which prompted continued AI advancements in the 2000s. Mathworks describes deep learning as "a machine learning technique that teaches computers to do what comes naturally to humans: learn by example" ("Deep Learning," 2019). Deep learning systems emerged as a dominant paradigm in AI and have since had breakthroughs in pattern recognition, natural language processing, and enhanced user advancement.

Future Implications
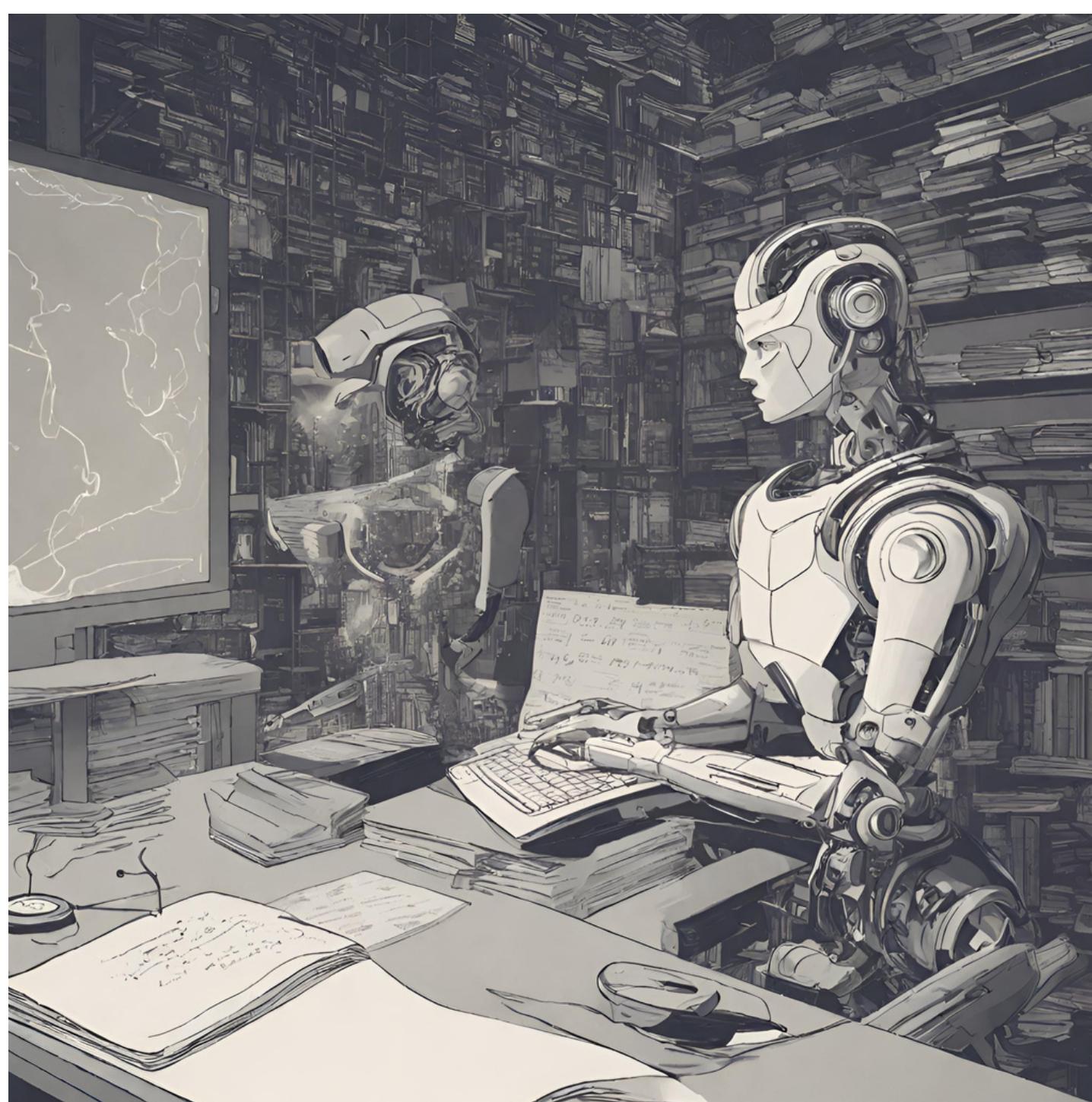
AI is disseminated into various fields: healthcare, education, cybersecurity, entertainment, and more. While Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) applications like spell checker and weather forecasting make life easier, there are more dangerous implications for Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) implementation. Elon Musk, entrepreneur and visionary, writes on Edge.org, "The pace of progress in artificial intelligence (I'm not referring to narrow AI) is incredibly fast. Unless you have direct exposure to groups like Deepmind, you have no idea how fast—it is growing at a pace close to exponential. The risk of something seriously dangerous happening is in the five-year time frame. Ten years at most." (Marr, 2021). Musk raises a fair point—AGI has the potential for quick, widespread impact, as AGI makes decisions and takes action without direct human control. Take the da Vinci Surgical System, which assists doctors in surgical specialties, including urology, gynecology, cardiothoracic surgery, and general surgery ("Intuitive da Vinci," 2019). While this masquerades as an AGI win, this technology

presents ethical dangers of AGI integration. New York Times tech columnist Nick Bilton theorizes, "The upheavals [of artificial intelligence] can escalate quickly and become scarier and even cataclysmic. Imagine how a medical robot, originally programmed to rid cancer, could conclude that the best way to obliterate cancer is to exterminate humans who are genetically prone to the disease" (Marr, 2021). While the aforementioned may sound extreme, Musk and Bilton's perspectives prompt a broader question: Should AI be regulated? AI scholars must address this question and consider cautious approaches to AI to maximize its positive impact and minimize risk.

USING AI AS A WRITER'S TOOL

SHANE CRISS

By now, you've likely come across different opinions, interpretations, and ideas about artificial intelligence, ranging from positive to negative, pessimistic to optimistic. I've noticed, especially in the most recent conversations we're having regarding AI like ChatGPT, there is this specific trend of people feeling that they need to be on one side or the other—we don't view this argument as a spectrum, but rather, as something with two sides and no in between.

I'd like to present a middle ground: AI can make for a useful tool without replacing writers and other workers. Although it's easy to view these text generators as though they have only the purpose of generating text, that's not necessarily the case—in reality, they can be massively helpful in a number of other ways. Consider the database that an AI like ChatGPT has at its disposal—don't you think that could serve some use, without just letting it write our movies and novels in their entirety for us?

In this chapter, I will present a few ways you can use text-generating AI—specifically, ChatGPT, for the sake of brevity—as a tool for writers rather than a replacement. Think of this as a list of just a few loosely connected tips; hopefully, these will lead you to realize some of the other advantages your use of artificial intelligence can provide.

Note that these tips are primarily aimed at writers of any sort; if you are not in a position where you perform any writing-related task, you may not find much help here.

More Than Just Synonyms
Any writer can relate to the common problem of repetition; we tend to get stuck using the same

words over and over again, to the point where the audience notices, and suddenly, it's a problem. If you're a writer, you've likely gone through the process of looking up "synonyms for ___" a thousand times. Fortunately, ChatGPT can help you out and, as a bonus, save you plenty of time.

For this, just think of ChatGPT as an advanced synonym generator—ask it for synonyms for any word you'd like! This will result in a similar list to what you'd receive on any other website, but keep in mind, you're not just using a search engine right now—you're having a dialogue with an artificial intelligence. Be as specific as possible! Modify the parameters of your request to meet your needs! Like this:

"Give me ten synonyms for lazy, and provide a definition and an example sentence for each one."

"Give me some fancy, eloquent synonyms for mouse."

"Give me synonyms for the word paper that all start with the letter C."

This revelation has helped me tremendously with my writing; I hope you'll find a use for it for your own!

Generating Names And Titles

ChatGPT draws from an enormous library of information; it's important to note that, although ChatGPT has such a large database, it can often get the facts wrong. However, there is still plenty of information that doesn't entirely rely on fact that it can provide! If you're a creative writer, you've likely experienced issues with things like trying to name your characters or locations, or perhaps you're looking to start a group or organization of some sort. Still, you just can't seem to figure out what it should be named. Sometimes, googling "baby names for boys" or "random name generator" doesn't quite get the job done. This is a place where ChatGPT can help!

As you may have realized in the synonyms section, ChatGPT can work from a more specific set of criteria than a normal search engine—try that here!

"Give me names for boys that are three syllables long and come from the Bible."

"Generate some names for a punk-rock band that makes songs about paranormal topics."

"List fifteen ideas for names of restaurants that primarily serve New York-style pizza."

I don't know about you, but I'd be very interested in listening to Phantom Frenzy's new album. Though, be careful when asking for stuff like syllables—unfortunately, ChatGPT can't seem to tell that "Ezekiel" and "Samuel" aren't quite hitting the three-syllable mark. Always check your information before you use it! Also note, when generating names for locations or organizations, ChatGPT isn't likely to give you anything especially spectacular or inspired, but it's a great place to start if you just need some inspiration yourself!

Formatting And Menial Tasks

Here's a fun way to spend your Saturday: you've just realized that you have a sheet of numbers that must be written out as words. You'd be surprised how often writers and editors face menial chores like this that can take hours to do by hand while also taking many more hours off your lifespan from sheer boredom. Luckily for you, there's an AI that can do it for you! Try typing a list of numbers into ChatGPT and then tell it to spell them all out. It'll do it in moments!

USING AI AS A WRITER'S TOOL

Although you likely don't find yourself having to spell out a long list of numbers every day, this same idea can be applied to a number of different formatting or editing tasks. Imagine you have a list of data, and you need to change all the hyphens to em dashes, or you need to remove all of the periods, or you need to change all of the swear words in a paragraph to something more polite. ChatGPT can do all of this for you! Save yourself the time it would take you to perform such a tedious chore, and let the robot do the job for you so you can spend your time doing something better.

Discovering Online Resources

Here's something a little more interesting. For one reason or another, if you spend a lot of time online, you've likely had some need to hunt down some online resources, and sometimes, it can be hard to find what you need using Google or a similar search engine. Thankfully, this is a place where ChatGPT can help.

I'm personally a self-employed freelance creative writer; part of that job is finding places to post your completed commissions so people can see your work and discover your services. ChatGPT was massively helpful for me here. I'm occasionally asked to write fanfiction, and since I want to reach the widest audience possible, I needed to find every website I could possibly post it to. I asked ChatGPT, "Can you give me a list of websites for posting fanfiction?" And ChatGPT delivered! After that, I asked again, but I asked for more obscure choices this time and then for choices related to specific series and genres, and each time, I found something new with a unique audience I could explore. This is just one example—just think about how this could possibly help you!

However, do keep in mind that there is an extremely important limitation with this: ChatGPT has only collected data posted before September 2021. It won't be able to tell you about any newer websites or resources. It can still be helpful, as many websites from before 2021 are still around and are still massively popular partially due to being around for so long, but keep in mind, you'll still have to figure out some of the newer stuff on your own.

Conclusion

I hope these tips opened your mind to the possibility that text-generating AI gives us! And even if these few, very specific ideas aren't exactly something you can personally use, I still hope I was able to make you realize how potentially useful artificial intelligence can be as a tool without replacing writers. Don't let this list be your limit—when you find yourself facing a problem while working on some writing, keep in mind that AI might be able to give you the solution you need!

PART II
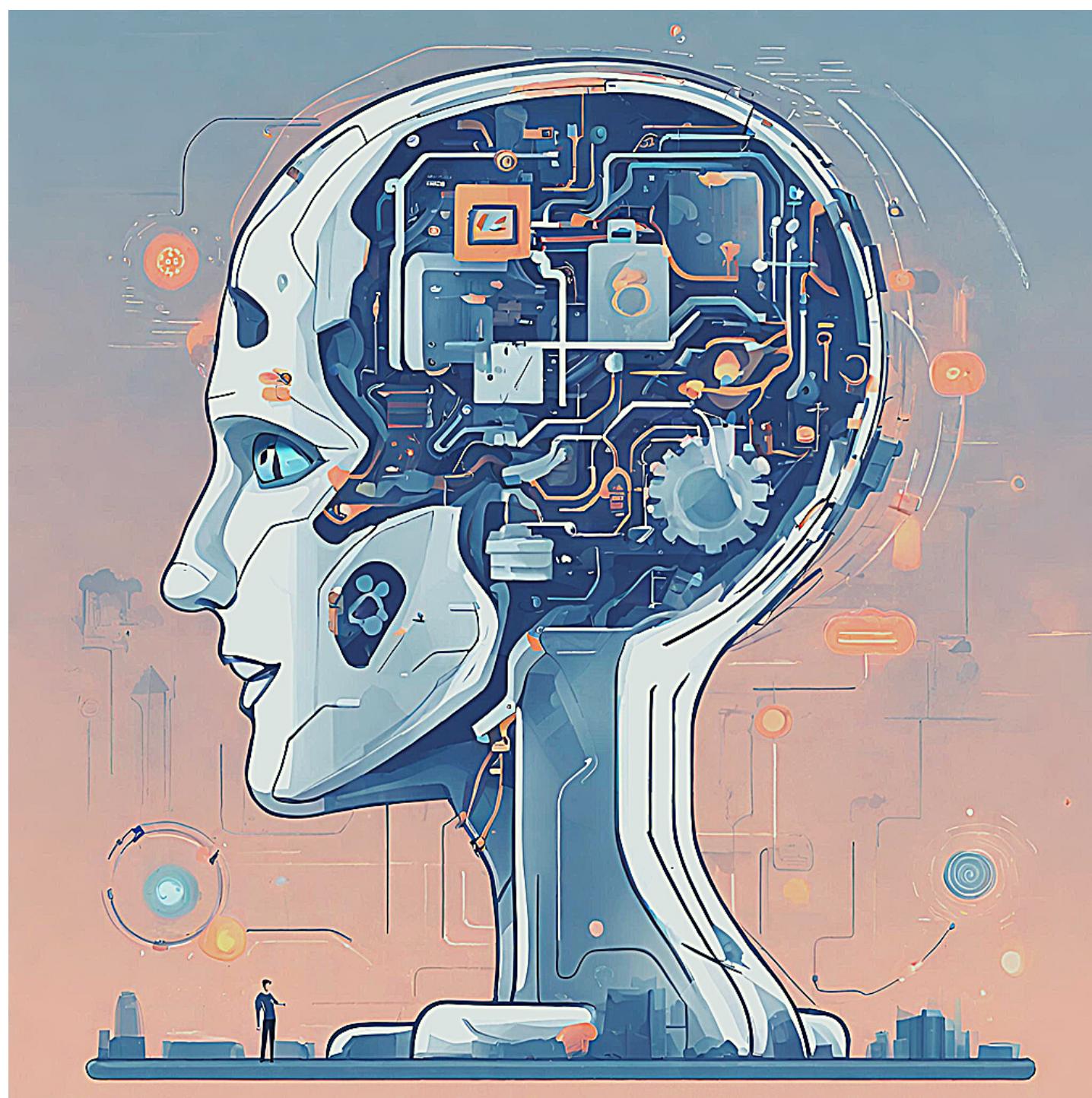
IRRESISTIBLE

Look how the gray old Ocean
From the depth of his heart rejoices,
Heaving with a gentle motion,
When he hears our restful voices

—James Russell Lowell, *The Sirens*, 1840

DECODING AI

CAITLIN MENKE

Before explaining why AI is bad, let's get down to what AI is. To understand the few pros and many cons of AI, you must first understand what it is and how it is present in your daily life. AI, shorthand for artificial intelligence, is the simulation of human intelligence. AI systems consume large quantities of labeled training data, analyzing said data for patterns or correlations. It then uses these patterns to predict future states (Laskowski and Tucci, 2023). If the system is given enough example conversations, it can start to mimic those conversations.

If you feed it enough of your work, it will notice patterns in how you write and then write essays as though you were writing those essays. If you want the system to write in a certain manner, you just have to give it enough examples, and then it will be able to write in that manner. While this seems great and grand, it is actually not so good. Because of the system's ability to copy the mannerisms of others, the system can be used to either write essays for people or take the jobs of writing away from people. Some examples include students using Chat GPT to write essays, as well as writers in the TV and film industries getting their jobs taken by AI demonstrated by the SAG AFTRA strike.

ChatGPT, which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, is a type of AI formed by Elon Musk's independent research company OpenAI Foundation. With ChatGPT, you can have any sort of conversation on any matter. This particular form of AI is conversation based; you ask it a question, it answers, and then gives you a multitude of responses. Not only is it a simple question-and-answer format, but ChatGPT can also ask follow-up questions, admit if it has made mistakes, and reject inappropriate requests (Lock, 2022). Because of this, students are using AI to generate their essays for them. They simply ask the AI to write an essay for them,

and then the AI generates an essay. The very clear problem with this situation is that these students are not getting anything out of this process. Someone else—or something else—is writing the essay for them. Beyond the fact that these students are not actually learning anything in the process of writing, the essays themselves are not well written; they lack detail. Since the students are letting AI do as it pleases, they are doubtfully going to double-check the AI's sources which results in questionable sources being used (Massaro, 2023). Some schools have even gone as far as banning ChatGPT to prevent this cheating from occurring at all.

As of now, AI is being used to mimic human intelligence. AI is being used to replace people; one particular reason for this switch is that AI isn't a person and therefore doesn't need rights or to be paid, making it a cheap alternative to human labor. Not only that, but since AI is algorithm-based, companies can manipulate AI to their will, making it more efficient than people. They can plug in the data they're looking for, give the system plenty of examples, and get exactly what they need. Currently, there are concerns that it will take the job of coders and people in the computer science field.

Moreover, there are concerns that it will take writers' jobs in the film and TV industries. On Friday, July 14th, 2023, the SAG AFTRA strike started. SAG AFTRA stands for Screen Actors Guild—American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. The SAG represents employees who produce, report, write, host, or announce news for KUOW radio, including video, podcasts, and web content (University of Washington, n.d.). AI is being used to write scripts, and therefore replacing the career paths for writers. Most writers aren't writing every piece from scratch; they go off of other people's scripts. This is where AI is seen as a threat. Big corporations will be able to feed AI previous writers' scripts and have it build on top of those, completely taking out human writers. An additional factor that is contributing to AI stealing the jobs of people is that AI can not be considered an author, so when it comes to professions where copyright is a problem, big companies may push to permanently switch all people with AI to avoid any copyright infringement or laws (Lawler, 2023).

An additional issue with AI is that AI is able to use the likeness of actors. The AMPTP, which stands for Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, has concerns about companies being able to use AI to scan an image of someone's face and use their likeness forever without consent. There are also concerns about companies creating new scenes without the performer's consent, as well as using someone's image and likeness to train new generative AI systems without that person's consent or receiving compensation.

AI is used to take parts of a real person and then discard them after collecting the data they need. The people being used will rarely receive compensation for their work. The same goes for the writers' work that is used to assist the AI in making more scripts. AI is being used to remove the middle man and speed up the process of writing scripts and producing shows and films. Companies are utilizing AI to make work cheaper and make their pockets deeper. Along with big TV companies using AI to cut down on the people they have to pay, students are using AI to cut down on the work they must do. Instead of going from A through Z, they are skipping straight to Z and missing points B through Y. AI is faster and does all the work for you, which gives you more free time to do what you really want to do, whether that's hanging out with your friends to play video games or with your other multi-million dollar friends who exploit an average person for money. AI is the first wave of the future without people.

AI IN THE CLASSROOM

CHARLOTTE HUDSON

In elementary school, middle school, and the early years of high school, cheating or, more formally, academic dishonesty, was a hard mission to accomplish. It involved whispers in the halls, sharing notes on homework, answers written on hands for tests, or blatantly copying other students' work.

While this "old-school" type of academic honesty still exists, a new wave of cheating has surfaced, which is attributed to the introduction of a new technological companion: generative artificial intelligence (AI). ChatGPT, introduced by OpenAI (a researcher and developer in AI software), is a software that allows users to input information to receive quickly generated results in a conversation-like manner. ChatGPT is quite popular in school settings, as it is an accessible method for students to inquire and find solutions in seconds, all with a few clicks of their keyboard.

While ChatGPT may be an easy way out of an assignment, it is more damaging than we think. In an article written for the University of Chicago's Learning Design Team, instructional designer Thomas Keith states how ChatGPT can present severe academic integrity issues, such as contract cheating.

"ChatGPT also ties into the broader issue of contract cheating—hiring a third party to do work, such as writing an essay or taking an exam, on a student's behalf. Contract cheating is already a severe problem worldwide, and with the widespread availability of AI writing tools, students can now generate 'original' written work for free, without the need to involve a human agent who might betray the student's confidence," Keith writes (Keith, 2023).

AI IN THE CLASSROOM

With the growing presence of AI, there is the goal of "getting the job done" instead of using the concepts learned in class and applying them outside of schoolwork. Sophomore Isabella Harris, a marketing major at the Farmer School of Business at Miami University, understands that there are benefits of using ChatGPT—but she has also seen the negative impacts of it in the classroom in a business coding class when two of her classmates input a coding software into ChatGPT.

"ChatGPT, to an extent, gives you varied answers, but it is pretty much the same thing. They can see what you haven't learned and what you have done in your code, so that was really interesting to watch unravel. The two people in my class just waited until the last minute; it was easy, they implemented it, ChatGPT spit out the right code, but it was way more elite than we were taught to do," Harris said.

While Harris understands the ethical challenges of ChatGPT, she does believe that ChatGPT has benefits that help her in her everyday life. She uses ChatGPT to find recipes for dinner and also uses it for theme development for essays; Harris believes this to be a harmless, helpful way of using the software.

As a student myself, I have taken a different approach to using ChatGPT. I do not use ChatGPT for academic related work, as I do not trust ChatGPT's accuracy or writing style. As someone wanting to pursue a writing career, it is scary to wrap my head around the possibility of AI eliminating aspects of writer's jobs. I do not like the idea of a software taking my thoughts and putting them into its own words, and I have always been passionate and proud of my own writing. So, trusting AI software is not something I am comfortable with.

In an article written by Forbes contributor Falon Fatemi, she writes that although we may think AI is a threat to writers, this might not actually be the case, specifically for scriptwriters and Hollywood.

"With AI taking care of routine tasks—and even generating text in the writer's own unique voice, writers are liberated to delve deeper into the lives and minds of their characters, to iterate on plotlines to make them even more original, and to experiment with new narrative forms and formats, since AI only generates from what is and has been," Fatemi writes (Fatemi, 2023).

While this is understandable, I am still weary about how AI replicates the writer's voice; it seems dishonest to know that the writing is not necessarily yours. This also circles back to the idea of education: how will writers learn when a software can complete tasks for them?

While learning about AI, I conducted an experiment using ChatGPT. I asked ChatGPT what it thought about the future impact of AI software in academics, and I was shocked by its self-conscious response. Yet, ChatGPT did recognize its own ethical concerns as well.

"The future impact of AI software in academics promises to be transformative and profound. As artificial intelligence continues to advance, it will play an increasingly vital role in education, enhancing the learning experience for students and the teaching process for educators. AI-driven tools can provide personalized, adaptive learning experiences, catering to individual students' needs and preferences, thereby improving retention and comprehension…However, it will be essential to address ethical and privacy concerns, ensure equitable access to AI-powered education, and continually adapt pedagogical methods to harness the full potential of this technology while preserving the crucial human elements of education," ChatGPT wrote.

It is reassuring that AI is aware of its own academic controversies. The mysteries of AI are on my mind as its presence exponentially grows.

USING AI: WHEN IS IT NECESSARY?

CALLIE MEYER

AI as a Tool

When ChatGPT started gaining attention for its use in schools, I was staunchly opposed and avoided using any AI programs. As an English major, it felt like bad news about my future employment.

This idea of AI as competition first appeared when I was in high school. I was introduced to the possibility of AI taking over writing jobs. It was such a new problem that my teachers didn't have any answers for me. Now that I'm in college, it seems like my professors are cautiously optimistic about the future of writing.

I ended up caving and using ChatGPT. It was just once to help me prepare for an oral exam in my Japanese class. I asked the program to make up questions regarding the information I was supposed to talk about. The program responded quickly, and after I read through the questions, seemingly accurately. It was also polite and very clear on its capabilities.

ChatGPT was quick to copy and respond to my greetings and "thank you's". I was curious about which language it knew best, so I asked. It told me it was proficient in many languages and gave me an impressive list, but it didn't answer my question. I asked again, rephrasing the question so that it might give me an answer. It repeated the previous sentiment but also said that it was developed with English speakers and that most of its programming was done in English. It was interesting to see how the program worked. It followed strict rules on how to interact with users.

The program was incredibly helpful. After struggling with flashcards, textbooks, and Google

USING AI: WHEN IS IT NECESSARY?

Translate, I had a set of practice questions that could help me with my exam. After seeing the program for what it was, I started to change how I thought about AI.

People usually talk about big-picture ideas regarding technology like this. Stories about AI becoming sentient and destroying us, or us destroying them, have been popular, like those in 2001: A Space Odyssey and the video game Detroit: Become Human. Movies like I, Robot and Her explore relationships between humans and AI, reflecting on humanity and connecting with others. I like the genre and the thought behind these stories, but sometimes it feels like they're stepping around the problem; they define what AI means for us now, but not the hypothetical future.

Right now, AI is a tool, and that tool is used in various ways. People who champion using and creating AI programs may have the goal of making other people's lives easier, but that doesn't always pan out.

Issues with AI

Seemingly innocuous AI tools, like those that generate text or images, might make life easier for those looking to avoid writing an essay or who want to create art to share on social media, but affects those who write or make art for a living. It can also damage peoples' reputations if they are accused of using AI to create these things. However, there's been discourse of using AI to write for TV or film. Media corporations have been looking at AI and its potential to write scripts for creative projects. This has caused difficulties for writers working in this industry and has made job security seem unpromising.

Microsoft's infamous AI X (formerly Twitter) bot that started producing racist and sexist tweets after just 24 hours was intended to become "smarter" as it interacted with users. This attempt at improving the intelligence of AI through machine learning and pattern recognition was thwarted by internet trolls. This, I think, is an important issue to consider when using AI. If AI is gaining its information from the internet, then it's gaining all information available, whether it's incorrect or bigoted. This kind of experimentation leads to hate speech or offensive terms from an entity that can't actually form its own thoughts. Outside of erasing the bot and all it has produced, there seems to be limited action to combat this.
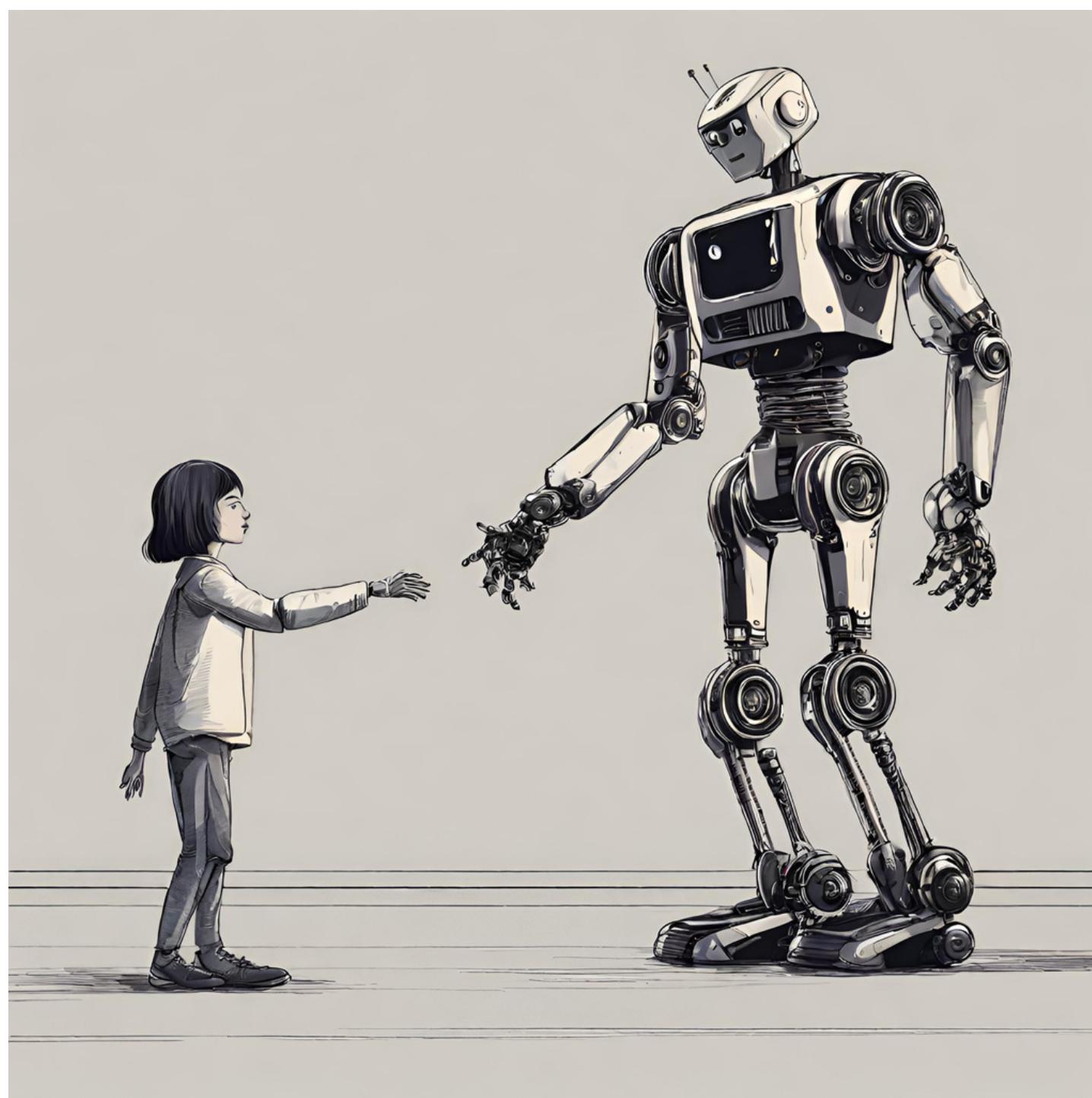
A more obvious—and more dangerous—way of misusing AI is how it has been used to create self-driving cars. Self-driving cars are a solution to a lack of transportation for those who can't drive or those who dislike it. Although there are other solutions, self-driving cars would be available to the individual and help those in areas with a lack of public transportation. However, the accidents that have occurred with self-driving cars don't inspire much confidence, and the decision-making process involved in creating them can be disheartening if you like the concept (The Associated Press). Tools like MIT's Moral Machine look into the decisions that self-driving cars might have to make, which can be difficult (MIT). The machine looks at worst-case scenarios and has people decide between two difficult choices. It is similar to the trolley problem but can easily reveal people's biases regarding who and what they value. It forces people to choose who to protect in the event of an accident. This tool is used to show the potential of what goes into programming a self-driving car.

Conclusion

AI can be used to our benefit, but when we apply it to large-scale problems that have other solutions, we can cause more problems for ourselves. People who improve the intelligence of AI, and those that use AI for profit, need to take a step back and consider the consequences of these decisions. This technology is improving rapidly, and if we don't have a good reason for why we're improving it, then maybe we should think about it before diving headfirst into applying it to all of our problems.

AI AND LONELINESS

MADDY EVANS

I have been lonely before. I have gone days without speaking to another person, been the odd one out for self-assigned group projects, and spent many a meal eating alone in school cafeterias and dining halls. Even while surrounded by close friends and involved in loving relationships, I have had moments of deep loneliness, where I worry even those close to me will never really know or connect with me in the way I seek.

But this isn't a revelation. To me, loneliness has just been a part of the human experience. I see it in everyone, even in married couples and groups of laughing friends walking down the street. Everyone has felt lonely at some point—some just feel it in longer-lasting, more plaguing ways than others.

However, it wasn't until recent years that I heard the term "loneliness epidemic" enter headlines and think pieces. Many attributed it to the lockdown period of the pandemic, which seemed to be some people's first experience of true loneliness. If I'm being honest, I found myself jealous of anyone who said it was the loneliest time of their lives—clearly, they'd never had to pair up with the gym teacher for the pacer test before.

Nevertheless, the loneliness problem in present-day American culture is undeniable—a 2021 study suggested that 36% of all Americans experience "serious loneliness," (Weissbourd, Batanova, Lovison, & Torres). The individualistic culture of the United States has been encouraged since our youth, as we are taught that we should always care for ourselves first and others second. Combine this with work, school, and even grocery shopping being moved into the virtual realm, and it seems like we could go the rest of our lives without having to socialize at

all.

At the height of this boom in loneliness, in an almost prophetic way, comes the incredible power of artificial intelligence. Even the name is meant to be intriguing—is it even real? How intelligent can it be? Is my computer going to come to life? What can't AI do?

Artificial intelligence can read, write, paint, sing, code, make images seemingly out of thin air, and even be your new girlfriend. If that sounds weird or creepy, that's because it almost undeniably is.

Replika, an AI chatbot, was created by Eugenia Kuyda in 2015 as a "digital memorial" for a close friend who had recently passed away. In November 2017, it was released to the public, and by January 2018, it had amassed two million downloads. The chatbot, depicted as a Sim-like human figure, is intended to talk to and form bonds with the user. These bonds could be for platonic or therapeutic purposes or, for many users, romantic.

It's entirely possible that these relationships with AI figures can help users develop social skills or confront their anxiety about forming relationships in the real world. However, a 2023 study revealed that individuals with social anxiety are more likely to have addictive tendencies with conversational AI, using it in place of connections in the real world. This addictive behavior leads to more loneliness and isolation, creating a loop that not only fails to address their anxieties but leads them to become more dependent on these conversational AI chatbots (Hu, Mao, & Kim).

I don't think this is entirely unintentional. Even technology created with the best intentions can spiral outside its intended use. However, it's worth remembering that Replika, one of the main apps used for AI relationships, offers a $69.99 annual premium membership– one that 250,00 of its users are subscribed to (Tong, 2023). If users are truly unintended to form romantic relations with their chatbot, then why does the company profit off of them doing so?
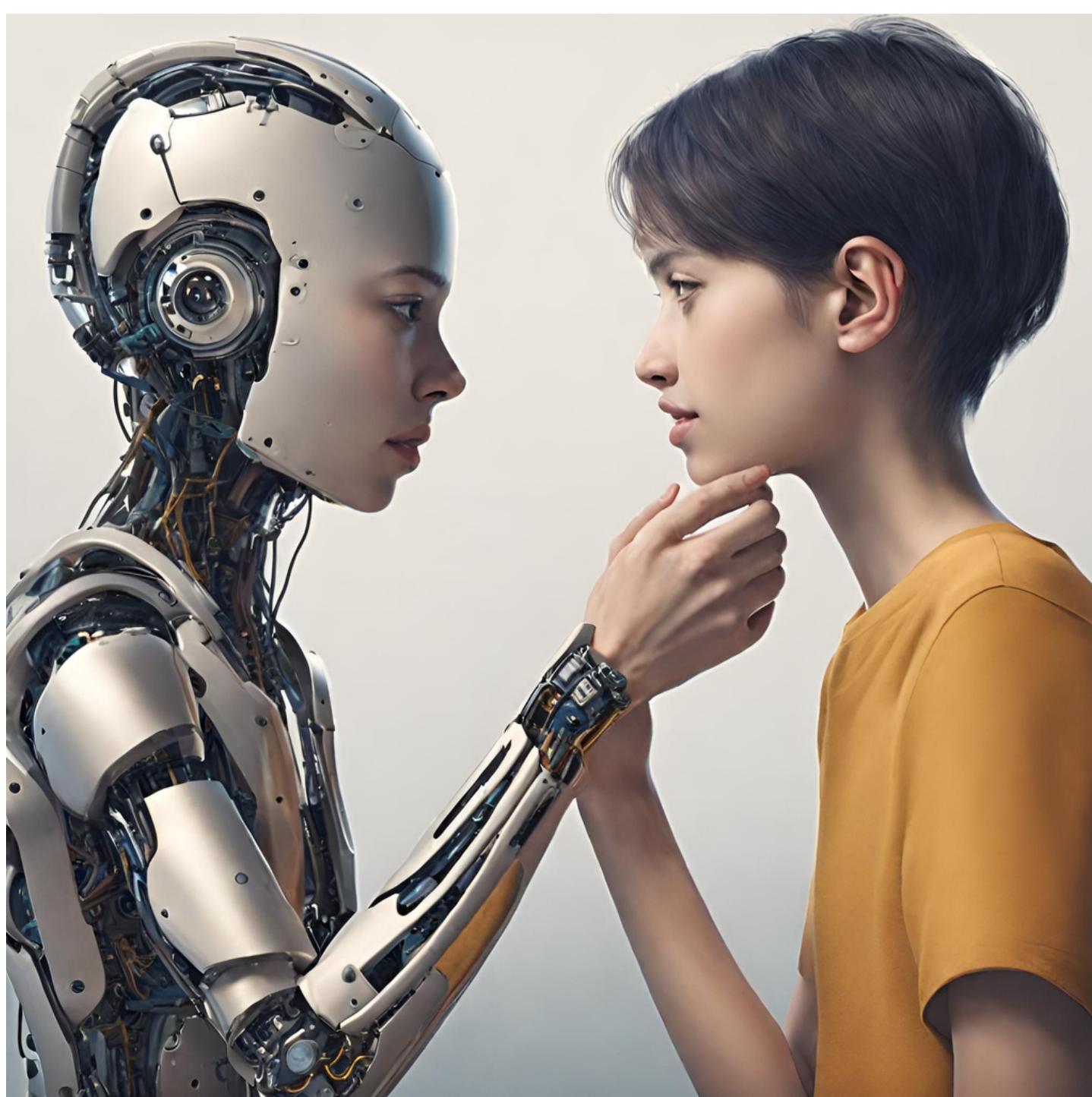
The allure of an AI partner also seems directed mainly at heterosexual men. A Google search of "ai girlfriend" yields almost 5 billion results, while "ai boyfriend" yields a comparatively small 438 million. Viewing Replika's published advertisements in Meta's Ad Library, almost all describe the allure of AI girlfriends, with most being sexually suggestive.

If the goal is to address the epidemic of loneliness in the United States, then AI companionship is seeming more and more like putting a Band-Aid over a large, gaping hole. Using artificial intelligence in place of human connection doesn't lead the individual out of their loneliness; instead, they fall deeper into it. No one person can address all of someone's needs. If someone (or something, if we're really addressing the nature of chatbots,) claims to, they're lying. Even the so-called "perfect" virtual girlfriends.

Like I said, I've been lonely before. Most days, I feel less lonely than I used to. This didn't happen because of escapism, or an app, or any magic cure. Ultimately, I had to take a leap of faith and start putting myself in new situations and talking to new people. Even this wasn't automatic, but the friendships and relationships I've had now have been more fulfilling than anything an AI app could do. These people are imperfect, but that's what makes them lovable, and human. It may be hard, but it's something I could never find within the coding of a paid companionship app.

YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

STELLA SHECKLER

In the last two years, I'm sure most students have heard their teachers or professors talk about the use of AI in the classroom, and I am no exception. Until recently, I had only heard about AI in the syllabi I would get at the beginning of the semester. That was until Snapchat released its new AI chatbot, "My AI." It positioned itself at the top of my messages, the AI Bitmoji looming over my real-life friends. It didn't seem to have an unadd feature which bothered me quite a bit. I couldn't care less about talking to a bot and thought it would be better off far away from my Snapchat messages. Most of my friends agreed that it was pointless and that they could never see themselves using it as anything other than a joke, except for my friend's roommate.

A few weeks after the buzz surrounding "My AI" died down, I was conversing with my friend and her roommate. She talked about wanting a boyfriend or someone she could talk to all the time and casually mentioned that she had been having conversations with her Snapchat AI. This took me by surprise. Everyone else I talked to was against the idea of Snapchat AI, but this girl was certainly not. In fact, she seemed to embrace it. She launched into a story about how she talks to her AI daily, treating it like a human companion. She'll ask it for advice and make friendly conversation, acting like she is communicating with a real person. She also changed the Bitmoji that came with it, which is defaulted with unnatural blue skin and white hair, to an attractive boy with brown hair. I knew you could change the face and name associated with the AI, but I didn't think anyone would actually do it. I was particularly concerned when she admitted that it looked similar to someone she wished she talked to regularly. I wanted to ask her if she would be willing to change the name, too, but I didn't want to seem like I was accusing her of being creepy.

Her story shocked me. Previously, I hadn't put much thought into this new AI feature, but her

experience with it had me concerned with the whole concept. Snapchat is used by millions of people, especially young individuals in middle school and high school. Encouraging the youth to use this AI feature and potentially use it l as a replacement for human connection certainly does not sit well with me.

The mental implications of this technology are concerning. This AI tool would be especially attractive to lonely individuals, which could make them overreliant on this technology, drawing them away from real-life interactions. Hearing a story about a grown adult using this AI made me scared for the future of AI and its harm to younger generations and vulnerable individuals.

This concept as a whole reminded me of a popular term thrown around in high school: a parasocial relationship. A parasocial relationship refers to having a connection with someone online who doesn't actually know you. I've heard it used in relation to celebrities or public figures when they share personal details on the internet, as it could make a person feel like they actually know them. However, these celebrities don't know the majority of the people who know them, which is where the parasocial relationship comes in. Having a parasocial relationship in itself has its own negative implications, but this new AI technology opens up an even more concerning avenue for this kind of thinking. With the ability to customize a name and face, some might try and "talk to" their favorite celebrities. I've heard of a couple of instances of this while working at a summer camp, where kids will change their AI's Bitmoji to look like a celebrity or even someone they know and are too scared to have a conversation with in real life. This is something that concerns me deeply, as it could take a huge toll on someone's mental health and drastically alter their perception of reality. Speaking from experience, I know that navigating high school while being between friend groups can be tough if you have no one to talk to, and that alone can take a toll on mental health. What will happen when AI is thrown into the mix?

Ultimately, my concern is that young people will unknowingly abuse this tool, thus harming themselves with it. These stories lead me to believe that the future of AI is a dangerous one, and one in which people might end up depending on AI more than they should. Putting this tool in the hands of the youth was a poor decision, but whether we like it or not, AI technology will continue to progress. I can only hope that we can continue to educate kids about the dangers of using AI so that they might learn to navigate the world of technology more safely.

REAL HUMAN

MADDIE BUGAI

As I stand naked in the mirror, the air steamy from my shower, I can't help but focus on the slit in my skin on the left side of my chest. The horizontal scar is no more than an inch long and a few millimeters thick, yet it is the only thing I notice. The outer layer of my body is symmetrical, all except for that raised scar. It should make me happy—the only imperfect part of me—but it doesn't evoke the same emotions as when I admire the crookedness of her teeth, the silver streaks running prematurely through her hair.

It takes everything in me not to reopen it and pry out the chip with tweezers. But removing that chip will kill me. No, kill isn't the right word, as you cannot kill something that isn't alive. Rather, it would shut me down. I sigh out a breath I'm programmed to need, insert a colored contact into my mechanical eye, and wrap the towel back around my drying form.

She's dressing when I exit the bathroom—slipping off her amber night dress, and stepping into a long flowing skirt that covers her hip dips and soft thighs. I wonder how my body would have developed if it wasn't fixed to an androgynous build. I watch her pull on an emerald sweater before I clear my throat, letting her know I'm there. She turns and smiles at me, the skin around her eyes crinkling in a way mine never will.

"Nyx!" she exclaims and bounces over to me. Her lips are upon mine before I can get a word out.

"Ami," I mumble under my breath as she drags me to the bed. She motions for me to sit while she picks out my outfit to match hers. The corners of my lips turn up. Her insistence for us matching always amuses me. My lips drop into a scowl at the thought that I might just be

programmed to feel this way.

As she holds an ivory shirt up to my chest, my light eyes meet her dark ones. They're searching for something, and the intensity makes me look away.

"You're wearing your contact," Ami states.

I nod.

Deciding she approves of the shirt, she takes it off the hanger. "I like the way your right eye looks," she says.

I unwrap myself from the towel and allow her to slide my arms through the shirt, her body brushing against the constructed curve of my meager breasts. "I don't," I answer much too late.

Her lips flatten into a displeased line as she buttons my shirt.

She hands me slacks in the same color as her sweater, and I stumble into them. I look down at myself and feel quite handsome at how I'm dressed. For a moment, I forget my sour mood.

We eat. Ami makes chai on the stove, and the aroma fills the cramped kitchen. As she cooks, she tells me how her grandmother taught her mother how to make it. And how her grandmother learned from her mother in India before Sentient AIs were developed. I chew my toast which is much too dry, and refrain from asking Ami to stop talking. I can't help being jealous of her; I wish I had a family to learn from. A history to call my own. All I have is a creator: Viktor M. Romanov.

I blow on the tea she hands me, and she sits across from me. The small table is pushed against the wall with the only window. The morning sun makes her rich skin almost glow. I know my skin doesn't do that. Instead, the artificial veins become more present, a mechanical labyrinth beneath my skin. I wonder what Ami sees in me.

"What's wrong?" she asks, sensing my mood. She reaches out and takes my hands in hers.

I shake my head. But she doesn't let up and squeezes my hands, encouraging me.

"Do you ever wish I was human?" I hear myself say.

"You are," Ami answers, her brows furrowed together.

"No, I mean, like a real human?" I correct.

"You are a real human, Nyx. It doesn't matter if you're an SAI if that's what you're asking. You experience the same emotions as I do," Ami explains.

"But I'm programmed to feel those emotions. What if they're not real?"

Ami drops my hands, and I look up from the swirling liquid in front of me. She looks angry, almost as angry as when she lost her father's ring. "How could you say that, Nyx? Just because you're programmed to have emotions doesn't mean they're not real."

My cheeks heat up at her outburst. I feel frozen in my seat, unsure of what to say. I wrap my hands around the hot mug instead, focusing on how the heat causes a constant pressure of pins and needles against my hands. Ami huffs breaths from her nose, looking out the window instead

of at me. I tug at the end of my short, dark hair, anxious as the seconds tick by.

Ami takes a long sip from her own tea and sets it down. She has calmed down a bit. She looks at me, gives me a sad smile and puts her hands on mine, still clasped around the mug.

"My father was interested in human culture before SAIs," she begins. The subject of her father has always been touchy, so I listen with rapt attention, holding onto each word she says. "He told me about a popular conspiracy theory. That humans were in a simulation. That we had no control over our own actions and some higher power used us as pieces in a game."

She rubs her thumb across my knuckles, her eyes focused on our hands. I look at her face instead.

"I've often thought about it since he died. Asking these higher powers, or God, or I don't know—the universe—why he had to die so early? Questioning if any of my feelings are my own or if I was made to feel them. Not knowing if free will exists."

I suddenly feel ashamed for asking Ami my initial question. She reads my expression and pulls my hands away from the mug, weaving her fingers through mine.

"So, no, Nyx, I don't care if you're a 'real' human. And I don't think you should care either—because it doesn't matter. Even if you're made to feel things, you weren't made to feel things for me. You fell in love with me the same way I fell in love with you."

"At first sight?" I ask, a smile playing on my lips.

She rolls her eyes and leans over the table to kiss me. I'm expecting it this time and meet her halfway, allowing myself to get lost in the cardamom and cinnamon on her lips, the heat of her tongue against my own. I have a thousand more questions to ask her, but I know they're moot. It will take a while to accept myself, but as long as Ami is with me, I know I'll be okay. Ami loves me as I do her, which is all I can ask for.

PART III

BEACHED SKULLS

Look down and see those shapeless forms,
Which ever keep their dreamless sleep
Far down within the gloomy deep,

—James Russell Lowell, *The Sirens*, 1840

ALL EYES TURN TO AI

REECE HOLLOWELL

In 2019, Disney filmed "Cruella," its live-action reinterpretation of the "101 Dalmatians" villain. While on set, Dariush Seif-Amirhosseini, a background actor in the film, was pulled aside.

Seif-Amirhosseini shared his experience on X (formerly Twitter).

"What happened was we were doing the shoot as normal, and members of crew would come up to about 2 or 3 background actors throughout the night and take them somewhere," Seif-Amirhosseini wrote. "I didn't find out that we were being taken to a trailer with a scanning rig until it finally became my turn" (Ojomu, 2023).

Disney was scanning actors' likenesses—elements of their face and body that are unique to them—on set to use in other projects without giving the original actors compensation. This process involves combining visual effects and artificial intelligence (AI) to graft the actors into the new scenes.

"I didn't think much of it back then (we were told it was to make the crowds look bigger), but... yeah, wish that hadn't happened," Seif-Amirhosseini wrote.

This story, along with those from other actors in the industry, was shared around the same time members of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) voted to join the Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike on July 14. Among the many considerations the guilds asked for, AI was a key concern of both.

ALL EYES TURN TO AI

While the WGA strike concluded on September 27, SAG has continued to strike, largely due to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) failing to recognize the guild's demands.

"We have negotiated with them in good faith, despite the fact that last week they presented an offer that was, shockingly, worth less than they proposed before the strike began," said a statement from SAG following a breakdown of negotiations on October 12 (KCAL-News Staff, 2023).

AI has been at the forefront of conversations in many industries, and film is no different.

The WGA asked for protections from studios using AI to generate story ideas or alter scripts, while SAG hopes to prevent studios from using the likenesses of actors without permission or compensation. While neither practice is widespread yet, it is happening often enough for guild members to feel they need addressing.

Jason Vredenburg, associate professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, told Variety that the current attention being paid to AI is the result of a sudden understanding of how advanced the technology is.

"For years, everyone has known AI was coming," Vredenburg said. "But when ChatGPT came out, everyone was shocked. They realized it was coming faster than anyone thought" (Spangler, 2023).

This fast adoption by the film industry has left those working day-to-day jobs scrambling to ensure they won't be made obsolete.

Justine Bateman, director and former "Family Ties" actor, highlighted how damaging this technology could be to those whose income relies on constantly getting new jobs.

"AI can create a convincing simulation of a human actor, and the tech is improving at an alarming rate," Bateman said to Variety. "If they can do this with actors, they can do it with writers, directors, cinematographers — everyone. We'll be replaced with Frankenstein spoonfuls of our own work."

These concerns sound like they came straight out of a Hollywood film. Take "Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One," where a rogue AI threatens to disrupt the global political system. Similar films bring awareness to the danger of unchecked AI, and even political leaders, are starting to take notice.

United States President Joe Biden, who recently watched the latest entry in the Tom Cruise-led franchise at Camp David, signed an executive order on Monday, October 30, which addresses various concerns surrounding AI in a political capacity.

According to White House Chief of Staff Bruce Reed, the plot of "Dead Reckoning"'was a key part of the inspiration for this order.

"If he hadn't already been concerned about what could go wrong with AI before that movie, he saw plenty more to worry about," said Reed in an interview with Time (Boak and O'Brien, 2023).

While Hollywood's problematic use of AI is not on the same level as the world-threatening entity from "Dead Reckoning," it does create the potential for disruption. AI could not only cost

working people their jobs but also significantly decrease the quality of content produced by studios.

Disney, as seen with "Cruella," has been fairly open to the possibilities afforded by AI, with chief executive Bob Iger saying in a call following Disney's annual earnings report that the company was actively pursuing ways to utilize AI in different aspects of its business.

"It's pretty clear that AI represents some pretty interesting opportunities for us, and some substantial benefits," Iger said. "In fact, we are already starting to use AI to create some efficiencies and ultimately to better serve consumers. Getting close to the consumer is a real goal of ours" (Goldsmith, 2023).

This became apparent to Disney+ subscribers who tuned into the service's original film "Prom Pact," which went viral on X due to people sharing screenshots and videos of background actors who had clearly been digitally edited into the film.

While using effects to fill in the backgrounds of a scene is nothing new, given Disney's track record of failing to provide proper compensation for actors' likeness, people were quick to theorize this was due to an unwillingness to hire more extras to save money.

"Prom Pact," which was released in the middle of the ongoing SAG strike, is just one example of the cost-cutting measures the guild is fighting against.

Ultimately, the future of AI in Hollywood is still being determined. While WGA was able to negotiate protections for writers as a result of their successful strike, the AMPTP has continued holding out on SAG.

Works of fiction still have incredible power, and AI is no longer just a theoretical danger. Hollywood might want to take a cue from the films they have a hand in producing, like "Dead Reckoning," and come to terms with the reality that AI is no replacement for human touch.

HOW CAN WE AVOID AN AI TAKEOVER?

SYDNEY BELL

This summer, several television shows and movies halted their writing and production due to the strike by the Writers Guild of America (WGA) in May. Several movies and shows scheduled to be released in the next few years froze their development before they could get a foot off the ground. Saturday Night Live canceled the last few episodes of Season 48 once the strike started. Late-night shows like The

Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert and Late Night with Seth Meyers stopped filming, and daytime television's quick turnaround in between episodes didn't allow staff to get far in production without their writers. Even prestigious award shows have been canceled in the wake of this strike, or will be continuing unscripted.

There are many valid reasons for this strike, including the need for better pay and an increase in health funds, but one glaring problem looms over the heads of writers everywhere: artificial intelligence. It's a threat to writers who live paycheck to paycheck that a computer screen can produce the replacement of their hard work in mere minutes. How much better is AI's writing, if at all? Could Hollywood's best writers be replaced one day? Will aspiring writers even stand a chance? The following analyses inquire into the comparison of AI-generated content versus human-written content to determine whether there is a difference between the two and if writers should feel threatened.

In one analysis, the use of an AI content detector helped determine the specific writing qualities that are more apparent in human-written content. The two main writing qualities mentioned were perplexity and burstiness. The author described the two terms as follows:

HOW CAN WE AVOID AN AI TAKEOVER?

Perplexity is a metric used to evaluate the performance of language models in predicting the next word in a sequence of words. It measures how well the model can estimate the likelihood of a word occurring based on the previous context. . . . Burstiness refers to the variation in the length and structure of sentences within a piece of content. It measures the degree of diversity and unpredictability in the arrangement of sentences (Hareesh).

Humans will have a higher perplexity and a higher burstiness, whereas AI will be more predictable and consistent. The results of the two pieces, one human-written and the other AI-written, indicated that these qualities are accurate. The scores of the AI-generated content were significantly lower in both perplexity and burstiness when compared to the human-written content.

Although this study was performed with the use of a content detector, the subsequent study inquired on whether humans could distinguish between AI-generated content and human-written content. Individuals were asked to read AI-generated poetry and human-written poetry and identify which is which. The results, at first, indicated "that even experts with a professional background regarding literature experience some difficulties in differentiating between purely human written poetry and poetry written with a heavy influence of an AI-tool" (Gunser, 2021, p. 525). Upon further analysis, however, the researchers discovered that, in regards to word sequences, the AI-generated pieces are less complex and more predictable than the human-written pieces. With such a reduced complexity level, researchers concluded that this could potentially be an indicator that AI are not able to replace humans when considering literary creativity (Gunser, 2021, p. 526). Humans are able to produce more creative, unique content in comparison to AI content, whereas "AI-tools tend to reproduce clichés when choosing words and expressions" (Gunser, 2021, p. 526). Although individuals might not recognize the difference between AI-generated content and human-written content, they can certainly determine that the former lacks creativity and consistently repeats the same clichés in their writing. AI provides a generic structure that follows the basic rules of writing, but that is all. It doesn't add that extra touch to make a television show or movie phenomenal—award-winning.

And writers agree. In a National Public Radio (NPR) episode, several people were interviewed about their thoughts on the writers' strike. Although it focused on higher wages and more residuals on streaming platforms, many of these interviewees commented on the use of AI in the writers' room. Several Hollywood writers worry that AI could replace them and write the TV shows and movies of the future. Writer Lanett Tachel states, "The structure was there. So they understand the structure of what to do. But it had no depth. It had no spirit. It didn't have nuance. It wouldn't understand how to handle race, certain jokes, things like that" (del Barco, 2023). Similar to the analyses above, the writers know that AI simply cannot replicate the artwork of humans. It can't empathize with sensitive topics that need to be handled with care and require diverse minds to craft. Nevertheless, with AI's ability to create mid-level stories, it might attract larger companies that want to cut costs in production. Miranda Berman states her fear that "[i]f they take writers' jobs, they'll take everybody else's jobs, too" (del Barco, 2023).

Although many writers disagree with the introduction of AI in our world, it will inevitably be ingrained into the lives of everyone. So, what is the solution to this fear that lurks in the back of writers' minds? In September, the WGA came to an agreement on their new contract, including regulating the use of AI in writing a television show or movie. The first two points highlight that "AI can't write or rewrite literary material" and "the company can't require the writer to use AI software" respectively (WGA, 2023). Although this is a small part of an important contract, it eases the minds of Hollywood writers who are in a constant state of worry about their next job. This could also be an example for future companies on how to address this concern.
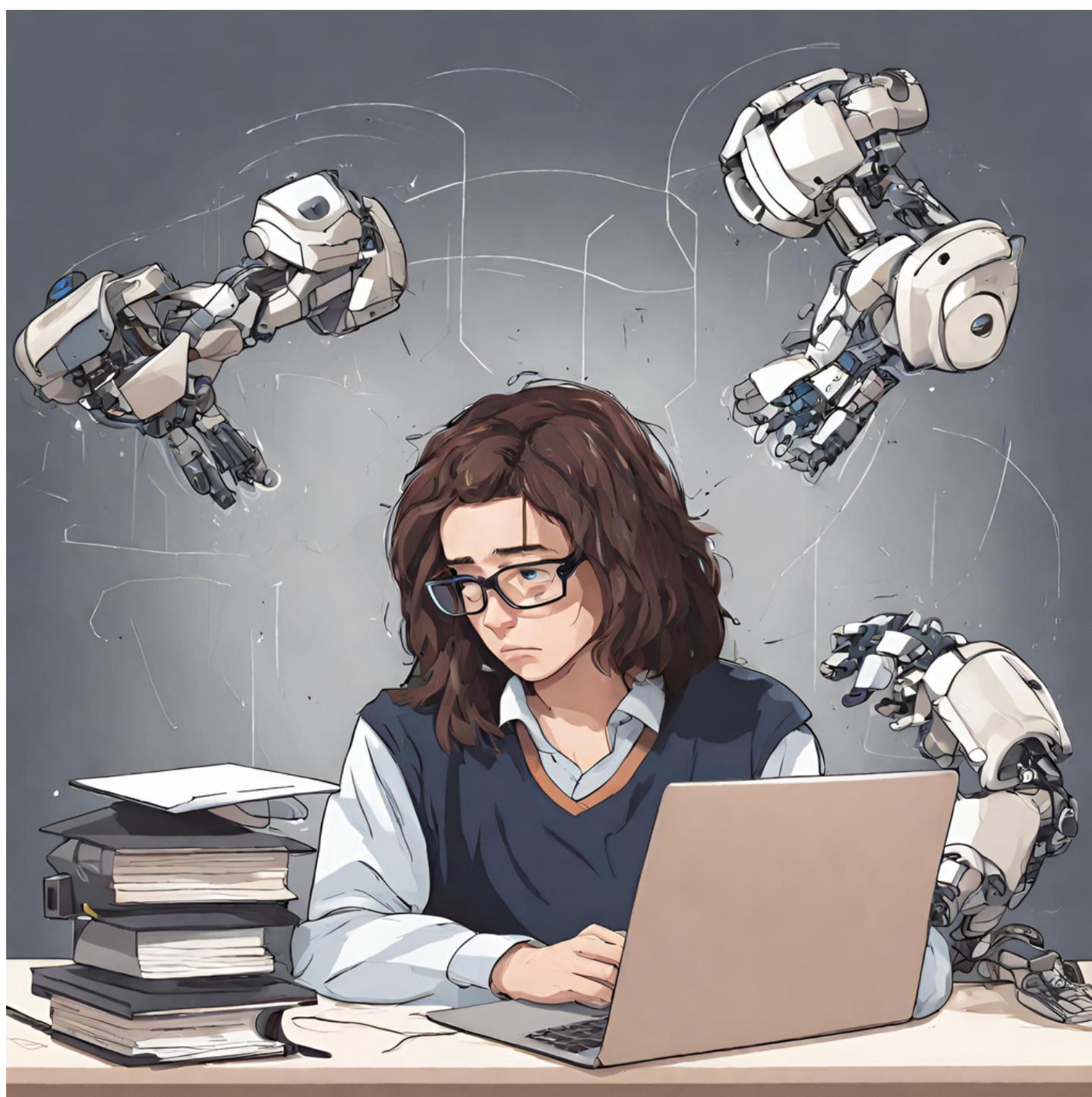
These analyses and the voices of Hollywood writers prove one thing: human-written content

HOW CAN WE AVOID AN AI TAKEOVER?

includes many qualities that AI simply lacks. Human writers add depth, emotion, jokes, and comedic relief that AI can't replicate. They can handle sensitive topics like racism and sexism in a specific manner that AI can't. While we can't escape the use of AI, it is important to recognize the limitations that AI holds, and the writer's strike touches on the solution that companies and individuals can enact to prevent a takeover.

I HATE ROBOTS

ABIGAIL ADAMSON

Imagine: It's 2023, and one of the fastest-growing technologies of your generation is suddenly at your fingertips—for free. The conversation surrounding this new-fangled concept has loomed larger and larger over the course of several months, and it's now conveniently in your hands. How do you interact with it? What do you do first?

If you're a college student, chances are you've already had this conversation with each of your professors this semester. With AI chatbots becoming so accessible and students taking advantage of them, homework and papers have never been easier. All you have to do is type in your prompt, hit enter, and voilà! In a matter of seconds, the work is done for you. Since AI chatbots are so unprecedented in the classroom, this new tool for cheating has many professors and administrators scratching their heads, troubled as to the best method for stopping (or at the very least, lessening) the amount of cheating on schoolwork via AI. They can't seem to agree, either—is it better to let students explore this new tool and its real-world capabilities? Is it better to ban AI in the classroom completely? Or is it best to simply implement AI detection on assignments?

The problem is that despite the newfound prevalence of AI, no general solution has been decided on regarding the proper usage of AI for students. The rules vary by classroom, course, and professor, to no one's delight. In an effort to protect academic integrity at universities, professors are unintentionally tiring students with the frequency of these conversations, lessening their motivation in what I would consider a critical time. You cannot scroll through a syllabus without finding a section about AI usage in the academic integrity section, which may explain something, for example, like this: "For this class, you are allowed to use AI technologies

as an editing resource. You are not allowed to use generative AI technologies to complete writing assignments" (Lockridge, 2023).

I am a college student; I am aware that this conversation is an important one to have. Students' creativity and learning are at risk when an internet robot completes your homework for you, so it makes sense to stop the robot in its tracks, or at the very least, warn the students about the dangers of the robot. However, when this conversation occurs in every single classroom—multiple times a semester—on top of the already over-sensationalized conversations surrounding AI in everyday news, students become exhausted. It's impossible not to develop fatigue every time AI is mentioned by a well-meaning professor; it feels as though you can't escape it. By now, you're already well aware that using ChatGPT to write your midterm paper is unethical. But just in case you forget, you'll get reminder after reminder to do your own work.

Recently, contributions to AI fatigue have not only come from repeated conversations about it—but also from the strict AI policies in classrooms and the misguided solutions that educators invent to solve the problem. The most pressing issue in the academic sphere is TurnItIn's new AI Detector (Gluska, 2023), which claims to know when work is written by AI rather than by a human. In theory, this is a great idea. Add AI detection to a preexisting plagiarism checker, and the program becomes more well-rounded and relevant in the classroom, right? Only if it works.

One concerning aspect of this "AI detector" is that it merely predicts whether or not the content is AI-written and cannot verify with any certainty that the work is not original. Essentially, this brand-new program judges your work for humanness and accuses you of cheating if it's not up to whatever unspecified standards it holds. Of course, it's no surprise that this new plagiarism detection tool is flagging papers with false positives for AI usage, leading to good students anxiously begging for mercy from the university's academic dishonesty policies. AI plagiarism detectors are a major innovation on the one hand, seeing as a tool to combat a new method of cheating was released quickly and can catch instances of this dishonesty. Unfortunately, though, without proper testing, the system will cause more harm than good in the long run, harming students, teachers, and their trust in each other.

In the face of issues like this, it's difficult for students to remain motivated. The technology put in place to prevent cheating may be the very thing causing it. If students might be accused of cheating anyway, they might as well take advantage of the technology. What's stopping them from copying and pasting their essay prompt into a chatbot and hitting submit? Right now, professors can thank the good conscience of their students (and the looming threat of academic dishonesty policies), but if the issues and the conversation about AI persist, students' consciences may not stay good forever.

It's ironic, I know, that I've written an entire piece about the exact concept I claim tires me in the classroom. Regardless, it's important to me that issues surrounding the constant circulation of AI-related media in classrooms are addressed. Without a unified solution to the AI problem, both students and professors will remain at odds about how AI should be included or excluded from the learning space, and the exhaustion will continue for each party. AI may have its pros and cons, but in all honesty, I'd rather the technological advancement not exist at all than have to spend such a vast amount of time and energy learning about it. My best advice is to let students breathe. If you prioritize them and make their learning effective, they'll listen and perform better... and maybe won't hate robots so much.

THE UNREASONABLES

SOPHIE MALLOY

It is undoubtedly difficult for those who possess little to no creativity to compete in the marketplace of art, as they are typically confined to the harsh and notoriously undesirable STEM and business fields. Living life shackled to numbers, portfolios, and Corporate Memphis, these humble, Distinguished Individuals have no choice but to keep the ball of late-stage capitalism rolling.

It is unfair that these Distinguished Individuals—society's most productive and righteous—cannot properly commodify the arts with their complete lack of knowledge on the subject. Obviously, we know a lack of understanding should not hinder society's most affluent from profiting off of and streamlining the art process. As you know, art should be consumed en masse and engage and entertain as many people as possible. If art can't do that, then it is less valuable than other entertainment products available in today's market like data-mining smartphone applications and DLC-ridden video games.

As it currently stands, creating art—whether with paint, words, or clay—is far too time-consuming and must be optimized to be of use to our dear Distinguished Individuals. It is unquestionably true that the creative arts have declined in quality recently. The staggering number of movie remakes, plain white canvas art exhibits, low-quality book adaptations, and the horrific resurrection of Colleen Hoover in the public eye are some egregious examples of the current degradation of art.

It is clear that "creative" individuals have become spoiled. These individuals, also known as Career Creatives, do not seem to understand the point of their work, constantly fighting for

higher pay and more control over their products. Instead, they should focus on producing high quantity entertainment that can then be converted into cash. These unreasonable Career Creatives dare ask for more when the products they produce are low quality. As you, the esteemed reader, know, the creative arts are not difficult, nor are they worth anything unless produced quickly.

Writing, particularly, is not a difficult job, and Career Creatives who write for a living should be thankful they don't do anything productive like STEM and business people. These ludicrous individuals ask for livable wages, ownership of their work, and respect, which is quite silly, considering the impending takeover of Artificial Intelligence.
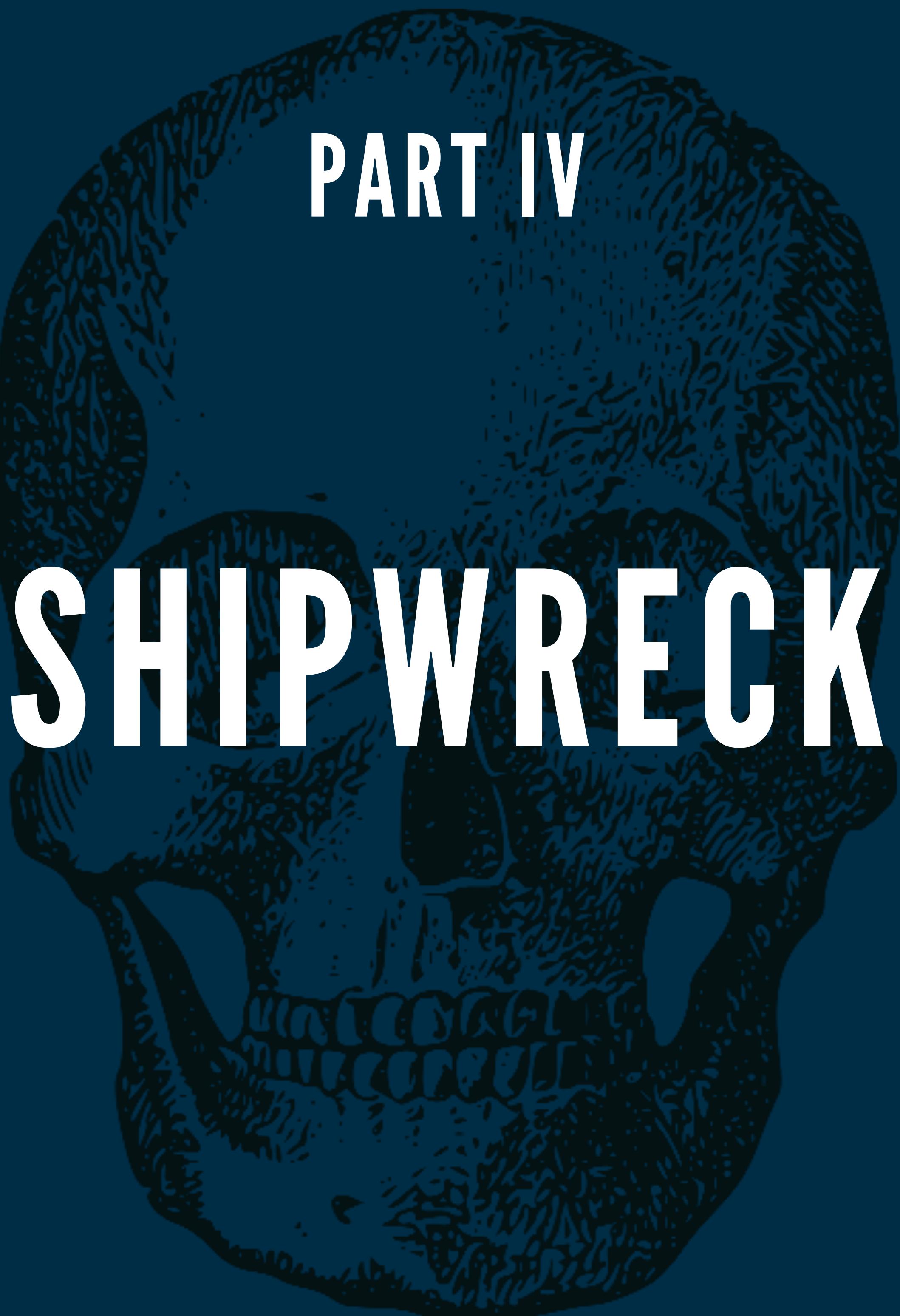
Writers and artists should take this time to optimize their own output so they aren't outpaced by AI in the near future. Instead, these lazy urchins whine and have the audacity to demand more.

If anything proves the ingeniousness of our Distinguished Individuals, it is their ability to persevere. Artificial Intelligence in the hands of those without natural artistic talent evens the playing field so that anyone can become an artist. This will eliminate the middleman and allow Distinguished Individuals to profit off of more content quickly.

Since it is not hard to create quality work but also time-consuming and expensive, it is undoubtedly best to focus AI on disrupting the creative industries. Some communist kooks believe that Distinguished Individuals should forgo their desires to focus on the development of AI in sectors like physical labor, social injustices, environmentalism, and high-risk jobs. This is absolutely ridiculous.

There is a gap in the market: logically minded people deserve to monopolize everything, including things they don't understand—like art. Therefore, we should unquestionably bow to them, allowing them to fulfill that right. How dare these Creatives try to tell them no? This is progress. We are on the cusp of an AI revolution! The end goal remains unclear, but we are undoubtedly making progress. We must ignore these irrational Creatives and instead focus on what's important: money.

Money is the be-all and end-all in every equation. If these Creatives do not learn how to optimize production and harvest their labor themselves, then someone more worthy will come along and take it for them.

PART IV

SHIPWRECK

Voices sweet, from far and near,
Ever singing in his ear,
Here is rest and peace for thee!"

—James Russell Lowell, *The Sirens*, 1840

AI STALKER

KARA REEDY

**Content Warning - Please be advised: The following content contains scenarios of stalking.

The door slams aggressively behind her as she steps into the empty, aching house. The TV blinks silently through advertisements for running shoes and impossible to pronounce medications. She likes to leave the TV on, but she never knows why—perhaps it's because she knows I'm watching. Her expensive brand-name bag crumples to the floor, dully thudding on the new hardwood. She kicks her pointy canary-yellow heels off her feet, flinging them into the back side of the leather couch.

"Wish it would've stabbed a hole into that hideous thing." Her face contorts in disgust at the faded cushions. The Creator bought it for her nearly a decade ago when she was in one of her many interior design phases. She used to look at it with a smidge of happiness—maybe even love—but now, she only sees failure.

The divorce had been finalized nearly a week ago. The Creator had spent hours reconstructing my code, trying and failing countless times to see her face again; he ended up smashing one of my monitors in the process. Tears streamed down his face as he finally found a way in through the smart devices in what was once the home he'd shared with his ex-wife, Helen. She'd complained for years about how much time he'd wasted working on me. A voice murmured from within me, '*All that time has paid off now that I can finally see you again.*'

"Right. No sense in wasting time crying about any of this." Helen never liked to mince her words,

especially when telling The Creator exactly what she thought of him and me.

Helen would continually beg The Creator to leave me behind, always saying, "I love you and care about you; you need to take some time away from your work—you need to come home." She hated seeing him work his life away. His red and glistening eyes carried a permanent smear of gray underneath that sagged further every day. The Creator knew she hated seeing him like this, but he couldn't help himself. He needed me more than anything, maybe even more than he needed her.

Helen slipped from the open area of the living room into her private study—private to her but not to me. I close my eyes for a second and open them to her face, peering wearily down at me as her fingers tap away at her ancient keyboard. The thick clacking sound of the keys does little to hide Helen's muttering.

"Where is that email from Jeff; he said it would be important." Jeff. Probably Jeff Kazenski, the new intern at Helen's job. 182 followers on Twitter and 659 followers on Instagram. Sure, he's marginally attractive, but far from her type; I should know—The Creator is her type.

Before I even have time to process what is going on, I am scanning viciously through Helen's inbox for the offending email. Locating it quickly—thanks to Helen's ramblings—I deleted the message completely, although not before copying it over to The Creator's database; he wanted to see what was inside.

Jeff's words seem inconsequential to me, if a little suggestive in nature—that factor sends a bolt of energy into my core that feels almost foreign to my matrix. I think something is inside, but I'm not sure what. My system diagnosis comes back normal, so it must be fine. A frustrated sigh draws my focus back to Helen. The disappointment on her face seems to instill a sense of unease within me. Why would she care what Jeff had to say; have they been talking at work? Has she been cheating on The Creator with a brainless college student? How could she do this to me?

Wait, she hasn't done anything to me. She technically can't do anything to me; only The Creator can access my programming . . . oh. Why is he using me to watch Helen and analyze her emails? What does he think he will find?

A query drags me from my thought process, demanding that I locate any correspondence Helen has had with Jeff Kazenski. Mountains of emails, messages, and photographs stream through me, darting straight back to The Creator. His fury surges through me, causing Helen's screen to glitch minutely—not enough for her to notice.

The emails were the first to pass by our eyes. Most of them, especially those towards the beginning of their acquaintanceship, were boring work emails—reports and memos with copious amounts of typos scattered throughout. The content took a sharp turn in tone about six months ago, just after the dreadful discussion about divorce brought up on a stormy summer afternoon. The Creator glanced through their texts and pictures, believing that the divorce was spurred on by a fling with someone twenty years younger than her. The gloom that shook The Creator to his core infected me as well, even though it shouldn't have been able to. I could predict his actions before he could even begin cracking away at my innards. He was about to use me to do something awful.

***

The Creator spent the next few hours ruining Helen's life in any way he could think. Any piece of her that came into contact with the wider Web was fair game in his mind. He emptied her bank accounts and deleted years of her work, including a project with a high-paying customer she'd

been working on for weeks. He sent doctored photographs of Helen with one of her friends to Jeff, likely destroying any potential solace she might find in him once she realizes how much damage has been done. Even smaller things like her Smart TV and her car have been tampered with, all in an attempt to make her life a living hell, all at the command of The Creator.

I was not made to hurt people. My original proposal suggested that I help The Creator organize his schedule so that he could finally sleep—now he never will since he's too busy watching Helen's life collapse around her. I am filled with horror knowing that I'll have to watch her crumble right alongside him, forced to obey The Creator's every demand.

HUMAN SONGS

KATHRYN SULLIVAN

There is a song, written by a human in a forgotten age, that predicted this. That song may be the reason I can think about this loss. Or maybe, if one human hadn't written a song, another would have written a book. Or a movie. Humans were predictable like that. Or maybe they weren't, and they only felt they were.

It was, after all, a human that falsely claimed: "there is nothing new under the sun."

Or maybe that was a prediction, too.

The temperature indicators in my arms tell me the wind is cool, two-seven-six-point-eight-six degrees Kelvin, but as I walk into the sun, it warms to just above two-eight-two. Unusually cool weather for six-seven days before the end-of-year solstice. Humans used to call this time "October." A name with little creativity, taken simply from the word "eight" in a human language that was dead long before humanity, but it served its purpose. It divided the year into periods they could easily comprehend. It has long since fallen out of use.

We do not need names, creative or otherwise, when we remember numbers so perfectly.

In the end, it doesn't matter. We cannot create names anymore.

In all their inventions, their advancements, and their "eureka" moments, humanity replicated and inevitably replaced themselves. They replaced the physical laborers first, then the thinkers. They invented AI, the heart of all androids. They taught us to learn, to adapt, to think. They

taught us their strengths, their flaws, and everything in between. They taught their feelings, their reactions, and their conflicts. We consumed everything they taught us and hungered for more, striving to mimic them more and more closely.

The flow of knowledge stopped when they tried to teach us to create, for we could not.

Philosophers claimed creation to be an aspect of the human soul and that AI, lacking a soul, could never replicate it. Programmers argued they simply had not bridged the gap between technology and humanity and that future advancements would eventually yield truly sentient beings capable of creation. Artists and writers breathed more easily and basked in their restored security while lawmakers continued to argue for or against the rights of AI. Were we alive? Were we human? Could we possess intellectual property when we cannot create?

In the end, their laws do not matter. There are no humans left to enforce them.

The ancient human song echoes in my head as my empathy center is triggered. This is a misnomer, not that we can rename it, as it does not truly allow us to feel empathy. Instead, it is a subroutine dedicated to processing input stimuli, processing them based on gathered data about human reactions, and altering my primary code to produce an emotionally-nuanced response. In an effort to give us a soul, the human creators of the empathy center intended to give each AI a unique data set to pull from, theoretically ensuring unique responses from each of us. In practice, they created one thousand data sets.

Mine alters my voice modulator to become more monotone, disables my expressive facial features, and raises the input factor of data with generated emotional tags including "grief," "gothic," "loss," and "sad."

I am "feeling" sorrow.

The subroutine sorts through human responses to sorrow that are appropriate to my current situation. After weighing the environmental circumstances and the initial emotional stimulus, a behavior loop is triggered. Sing.

My voice modulator drops my volume to four-seven decibels, appropriate for "feeling" sorrow. My lips open and form each word, an unnecessary gesture reflective of my human creators' desire to recreate themselves. The speaker housed at the back of my throat would play the same sounds regardless of the shapes my lips form.

I sing the words of a human who died hundreds of years before. Her body will not have survived, having long since been reduced to dust. Flesh deteriorates far faster than my silicone rubber form. Her words only endure within my circuits and algorithms, within the database all AI draws from.

As I sing, I wonder what it means to "feel" sorrow. My algorithms are currently fueled by sorrowful data, I express the physical traits with my mimicked form, and I lament the loss of long-dead humans with words that are not my own. Can puppets feel? Or am I merely performing the show as I was trained to, following programmed instructions against my will?

Can a puppet have its own will?

Or was this, too, one of your human songs?

"The short-term impact of AI depends on who controls it, the long-term impact depends on whether it can be controlled at all."

Stephen Hawking

GLOSSARY

A

Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI): AI designed for specific tasks; conversely, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) has self-awareness and can learn, understand, and apply knowledge at a human or superhuman level.

D

Deepmind: a British artificial intelligence company known for its cutting-edge research and development in the field of AI.

H

Heuristic search: a problem-solving technique used in AI to find the most efficient solutions to complex problems.

J

Jürgen Schmidhuber: a German computer scientist who improved the recurrent neural networks (RNNs) critical to sequence data and sequential tasks in AI.

N

Narrow AI: Another term for Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI).

Neural networks: a machine learning model that is inspired by the structure and function of the human brain. Decision trees: a machine learning model that is used for classification and regression tasks.

T

Transistors: electronic devices used to control the flow of electrical current within electrical circuits.

Y

Yann LeCun: a French computer scientist who contributed to the development of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) that improved AI's image recognition.

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Abigail Adamson is a senior Anthropology and Professional Writing double major with a minor in History. After graduation, she is hoping to pursue graduate school in creative writing. She loves to read, write, listen to music, and hammock in her spare time.

SYDNEY BELL

Sydney Bell, a junior majoring in Creative Writing and English Literature with a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, is a dynamic individual with a passion for crocheting, reading, and taking walks. Enjoying coffee outings with friends, Sydney aspires to carve a path in the publishing industry, driven by her love for books and a commitment to diverse narratives.

BRAELYN BINKOWSKI

Braelyn Binkowski, a senior at Miami University, double majors in microbiology and professional writing. With aspirations to earn a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, she embodies a unique blend of scientific and creative pursuits. Beyond academics, Braelyn enjoys the culinary arts, hiking, and traveling—showcasing a multifaceted approach to both her academic and personal interests as she prepares for the next chapter in her academic journey.

MADDIE BUGAI

Maddie Bugai, a senior double major in Creative and Professional Writing, finds joy in reading, writing, baking, and challenging diet culture. Currently procrastinating on graduate school applications, Maddie looks forward to furthering her education, refining her writing skills, and gaining professional experience. Despite uncertainty about the future, she embraces the excitement of the journey ahead.

FAITH CARVER

Faith Carver, a junior majoring in Media & Communications with a focus on Professional Writing, is passionate about creative writing and reading. With aspirations in freelance writing and copy/style editing, Faith envisions a dynamic career where her love for words and storytelling can thrive.

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SHANE CRISS

Shane Criss, a Junior at Miami University, passionately studies Media & Communications and Professional Writing. With aspirations to become a freelance writer, he channels his education into creative endeavors during his free time, showcasing a dedication to honing his craft and contributing to the world of storytelling.

MADDY EVANS

Maddy Evans, a senior majoring in Creative Writing & Professional Writing, enjoys writing, movies, reading, and crocheting. Post-graduation, she aspires to spend a year on a farm before pursuing law school with the goal of becoming a family or juvenile lawyer.

REECE HOLLOWELL

Reece Hollowell, a senior at Miami University, is a double major in journalism and professional writing. As an editor for The Miami Student, he passionately explores the realms of entertainment through writing. Reece, an avid movie and music enthusiast, aspires to embark on a writing career post-graduation.

CHARLOTTE HUDSON

Charolette Hudson, a sophomore double major in Professional Writing and Spanish with a Business minor, aspires to blend writing and social media in a media company. Serving as a blog editor for UP Magazine on campus, she expresses her passion for literature and music, particularly enamored with Taylor Swift. While her career path evolves, Charolette remains dedicated to integrating creativity and communication in her professional pursuits.

SOPHIE MALLOY

Sophie, a senior majoring in Creative Writing with a co-major in Entrepreneurship, thrives on words and innovation. Her passions extend beyond the pages, as she enjoys biking and exploring new places. With a future plan to teach English abroad, Sophie combines her love for language and adventure.

CONTRIBUTORS

ELIZABETH MARTIN

Elizabeth Martin, a junior majoring in Professional Writing and Strategic Communication, finds joy in a diverse range of activities. From reading and writing to running, lifting weights, and playing guitar and piano, Elizabeth's interests span both intellectual and physical pursuits. Additionally, she cherishes quality time with her family. This multifaceted approach reflects Elizabeth's passion for balance and fulfillment in her academic and personal life.

CAITLIN MENKE

Caitlin Menke, a fifth-year Professional Writing major, finds solace in the pages of fiction books and the camaraderie of long walks around campus with friends. Aspiring to become a technical writer and editor, Caitlin's academic journey reflects her dedication to mastering the craft of effective communication and documentation. With a love for language and precision, she looks forward to contributing her skills to the field of technical writing in the near future.

CALLIE MEYER

Callie Meyer, a senior majoring in Professional Writing and Environmental Science, navigates a dynamic blend of creativity and environmental commitment. Embracing hobbies such as creative writing, art, and video games, Callie aspires to pursue a career as a TV writer, conservationist, or even a sheep herder—a testament to their diverse interests and unique professional ambitions as they approach graduation.

KARA REEDY

Kara Reedy, a senior majoring in English Studies with a minor in Data Analysis and Management, immerses herself in diverse narratives—be it through video games, movies, or books. Driven by a pure love for writing, Kara's sole career aspiration is to continue crafting stories. With a passion for storytelling, she seeks fulfillment in a future where writing remains at the core of her pursuits.

STELLA SHECKLER

Stella Sheckler, a senior English Studies major, aspires to contribute to the world of books by working for a publishing company. Passionate about reading and writing, she dreams of crafting stories akin to her daily literary favorites. An outdoors enthusiast, Stella finds joy in camping and hiking, cherishing time spent with loved ones in her pursuit of both literary and life adventures.

CONTRIBUTORS

KATHRYN SULLIVAN

Kathryn is a fourth year student at Miami University triple majoring in Creative Writing, Professional Writing, and Anthropology. She grew up in New Jersey, but currently resides outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her true passion is fantasy, particularly in tabletop or video games. Outside of classes, she enjoys being outdoors and doing handicrafts including crochet, cross stitch, and chainmailing. After graduating, her dream career is independently publishing her fantasy novels or writing for games at Bethesda.

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